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1 Our next speaker is Lauren McDonald, to be
2 followed by Chuck Wilson and Philip Bradley.

3 MR. McDONALD: Thank you very much. Being a
4 southern boy and having an older sister, I
5 received the tag of "Bubba" many, many years ago,
6 and that has stuck. And I'll make up some of Ms.
7 Clark's time for you. I'm legally known as Lauren
8 McDonald, and I'm one of five elected members of
9 the Georgia Public Service Commission, whose
10 responsibility is to preserve the interests of
11 Georgia's electricity rate payers. I appreciate
12 the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the
13 state of Georgia as well as our national
14 organization, NARUC or the National Association of
15 Regulatory Utility Commissioners, where I too
16 serve on the electricity committee.

17 Georgia has two nuclear plants: Plant Vogel
18 near Augusta, Georgia, and Plant Hatch near
19 Baxley, Georgia, for which electricity rate payers
20 have contributed over half a billion dollars since
21 1983 to the Nuclear Waste Fund to, of course, help
22 finance the removal of spent nuclear fuel produced
23 by these plants and our cost in sharing the
24 development of the Yucca Mountain repository. We
25 at the Georgia Commission allowed our utilities to

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1 collect these funds with a guarantee from the
2 federal government that, as of January 1998, a
3 permanent storage facility would be in place to
4 begin to accept the waste. As we are all aware,
5 the repository has not been built, our rate payers
6 contribute to the fund, and there is no date
7 certain at which it will be built or ready to
8 accept waste.

9 1 [The Department of Energy's breach of a
10 standard contract has imposed significant risks
11 and harm on the rate payers in Georgia and many
12 other states.] In Georgia, for example, rate
13 payers continue to pay not just the payments that
14 the utilities have made to the Nuclear Waste Fund
15 but also to the emergency measures that had to be
16 taken as a result of the Department of Energy's
17 nonperformance. The utilities, through the
18 Southern Nuclear Company as owner and operator of
19 the nuclear plants, have incurred costs both for
20 the construction of the dry-cask storage facility
21 for spent nuclear fuel at its Plant Hatch site and
22 as a part of a joint utility corporation private
23 fuel storage LLC to provide for the temporary
24 storage of spent nuclear fuel. The budgeted costs
25 through 2002 for Plant Hatch dry-cask facility is

1 27 and a half million dollars. In addition,
2 through 1998 Southern Nuclear incurred \$3.8
3 dollars for activities associated with the private
4 fuel storage LLC site. At Plant Vogtle additional
5 spent fuel pool rack capacity was completed in
6 December of 1998 at a total project cost of about
7 \$2.6 million. Some of this costs are subject to
8 the recovery through the rate base, while the
9 company will seek to recover other costs through a
10 fuel rider. Under either method significant costs
11 resulting from the Department of Energy's
12 nonperformance under the standard contract will be
13 passed on to the Georgia rate payers.

14 2 [Our state did not envision nor did it conduct
15 studies on the possibility of long-term storage of
16 nuclear wastes at the plant sites. Although we are
17 not technical experts and therefore are not here
18 to address the specifics of the Draft
19 Environmental Impact Statement, we feel an urgency
20 in getting a permanent repository constructed and
21 ready to accept the nuclear plants' waste because
22 of the impact this delay is having on our rate
23 payers.] We urge you to seriously consider our
24 comments and move expeditiously on building the
25 repository now and not in the distant future.

1 Again, the state of Georgia should not be a
2 temporary nor permanent storage ground for nuclear
3 waste. The prospect is untenable and totally
4 unacceptable. We thank you for allowing me this
5 time to express our concerns on a very critical
6 issue that our entire nation faces today. If our
7 Commission can be of any assistance in this, we
8 certainly hope that you will call upon us. Thank
9 you very much.

10 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you.

11 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, sir. Our next
12 speaker would be Mr. Wilson.

13 MR. WILSON: I decline.

14 MR. LAWSON: Mr. Wilson is declining. Our
15 next speaker will be Philip Bradley, to be
16 followed by -- I believe this is right -- Gene
17 Hanes, is it? Sorry if I messed that up -- and
18 then David Jones.